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Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics

United States Department of Agriculture and State  
Agricultural Colleges, Cooperating

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# ORGANIZATION AND RESULTS OF BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK

(Northern and Western States)

1918

*Superior*  
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR 66

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Contribution from the States Relations Service  
(Office of Extension Work North and West)

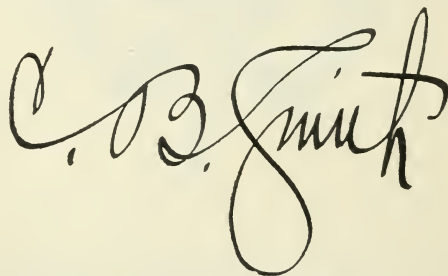
A. C. TRUE, Director

Washington, D. C.

February, 1920

**BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK** is a permanent feature of agricultural extension work. Any community which fails to enlist the interest and assistance of boys and girls in developing its plan for agricultural and rural betterment fails signally in utilizing one of the most effective agencies there is in extension work for arousing and maintaining interest in better agriculture and for developing in its young people a love for rural life. Boys and girls respond if given worth while tasks. They like to do a man's work. And in accepting responsibility for doing a piece of work in a community they are enlarging their horizon and fitting themselves for increasing usefulness as citizens. Extension work without boys' and girls' club work in any community is little more than half efficient. Club work helps to meet a community economic need and makes for increasingly efficient rural leadership developed out of the community itself. We build permanently when we take our boys and girls into our confidence and work out our plans in partnership with them.

This is the vision and the plan of our farm bureaus and other county extension organizations in their present work with boys and girls. The following pages indicate something of the way in which boys' and girls' club work has been organized and conducted at different stages of its development in the Northern and Western States and something of the results secured during the past year in the several lines of such extension work.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "C. B. Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is the central focus of the lower half of the page.

*Chief, Extension Work, North and West.*

## BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK, 1918.

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### EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK.

Boys' and girls' club work to-day is widespread not only throughout the United States, but has been established in many other countries, including France, Japan, Canada, and the Philippine Islands. In the Northern and Western States, within the brief space of seven years, 1912-1918, there has been an increase in enrollment from 22,000 members to nearly 528,000. The funds allotted for the promotion of the work have increased from \$4,600 to nearly \$795,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1919. This distinctly American type of education which is now making such rapid progress was started in the Northern and Western States about 20 years ago by a few county school superintendents of the Central States. The work then was undertaken as independent efforts on the part of those who saw in such agricultural and home-making work possibilities for motivating the tasks of the schoolroom, enlivening interest in the printed page, and setting standards of achievement for boys and girls in their home work, thereby bringing about a closer relationship between home and school as well as between teacher and parent. In the beginning it was conducted in connection with the schools mainly through contests in the growing of crops and the raising of poultry. The lack of well-trained and full-time paid leadership, as well as the lack of a permanent policy for the continuation and development of the work, prevented the progress necessary for obtaining maximum results. A few years later the extension departments of the State colleges of agriculture in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio started to do extension work along lines of corn growing, home gardening, poultry raising, and milk testing in the belief that contests of this kind would prove an effective means of promoting better practices in agriculture.



FIG. 1.—A club member.



In the spring of 1912, the United States Department of Agriculture made arrangements for the Office of Farm Management, Bureau of Plant Industry, to expand the demonstrational work already under way in the South to include the Northern and Western States. This work in demonstrating better methods of agriculture and home-making, based on the results of scientific research, was planned to reach the boys and girls, and through them their fathers and mothers, in order that higher standards for farm and home life might be attained. A small amount of Federal funds was made available in August, 1912, for initiating the work, and the Office of Farm Management was authorized to put a leader in charge to conduct and develop it. The work was taken up with the States on a cooperative basis. A State leader was cooperatively employed in each of the States of Iowa and Indiana in 1912 to start the organization. Local leaders of clubs within the States were secured, organization perfected, and follow-up instructions furnished in accordance with an agreement between the United States Department of Agriculture and the States cooperating. The work spread rapidly, so that when the Smith-Lever Act providing for cooperative agricultural extension work by the State agricultural colleges and the United States Department of Agriculture went into effect in 1914 the work was firmly established on a cooperative basis in Nebraska, Massachusetts, Utah, and Michigan, as well as Iowa and Indiana.

#### EFFECT OF THE SMITH-LEVER ACT.

The Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, appropriated funds to the States as follows for cooperation between the State agricultural colleges and the United States Department of Agriculture in giving instruction and practical demonstrations in agriculture and home economics: (1) \$480,000 (\$10,000 to each State) annually; (2) for the fiscal year 1914-15 an additional sum of \$600,000; (3) for each of the next seven fiscal years a further sum exceeding by \$500,000 the sum appropriated for the preceding year, thus making a total of \$4,580,000 in 1922-23; and (4) \$4,580,000 for each fiscal year after 1922-23. The funds, in addition to the first \$10,000 to each State, are to be distributed to the States in the proportion which the rural population in each State bears to the total rural population of the United States, and no payment out of the additional funds is to be made in any year until an equal sum for the maintenance of the cooperative agricultural extension work has been provided by the State, county, college, or local authority or individual contributions from within the State.

The act made it possible for boys' and girls' club work to be established within the year in each of the 33 Northern and Western States. That the development of extension work with boys and girls was contemplated by the act, though not specifically mentioned,

is clearly shown by the following statement of the Hon. A. F. Lever, then chairman of the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, in presenting the purpose of the bill to the House:

If rural life is to be readjusted and agriculture dignified as a profession as it should be, the country boy and girl must be made to know in the most positive way that successful agriculture requires as much brain as does any other occupation in life. \* \* \* The farm boy and girl can be taught that agriculture is the oldest and most dignified of the professions, and with equal attention and ability can be made as successful in dollars and cents, to say nothing of real happiness, as any of the other professions. Your committee believes that one of the main features of this bill is that it is so flexible as to provide for the inauguration of a system of itinerant teaching for boys and girls.<sup>1</sup>

On another occasion Mr. Lever further expressed his views concerning the act as follows:

\* \* \* My efforts to secure the passage of the Smith-Lever Act \* \* \* had the most encouragement from the achievements of the members of the corn and tomato clubs and I hope sincerely that a large share of this money will be devoted to an expansion of the work with the young folks.<sup>2</sup>

In addition to the funds for extension work provided by the Smith-Lever Act, Congress has each year made direct appropriations to the United States Department of Agriculture for farmers' cooperative demonstration work. A substantial portion of these funds has been used each year to cooperate with the States in the employment of leaders and workers who by agreement represented both the State and Federal Governments in the conduct of boys' and girls' club work. These direct appropriations to the United States Department of Agriculture were also very considerably increased by the passage of the food production act which went into effect on August 10, 1917.

The following table shows the number of States cooperating and the funds involved in boys' and girls' club work in the Northern and Western States since 1912:

*States cooperating and funds allotted to boys' and girls' club work.*

Fiscal year.	Number of States cooperating.	Funds allotted.		
		United States Department of Agriculture.	State.	Total.
1911-12.....	3	\$1,600	-----	\$4,600
1912-13.....	6	12,000	\$3,900	15,900
1913-14.....	23	37,480	42,430	79,910
1914-15.....	27	45,117	60,823	105,940
1915-16.....	28	49,912	126,597	176,509
1916-17.....	32	68,667	168,571	237,238
1917-18.....	32	350,000	227,301	577,301
1918-19.....		533,900	260,881	794,781

<sup>1</sup> 63 Cong., 2 sess., H. R. Rpt. No. 110, p. 6.

<sup>2</sup> Illinois Club Clippings, Vol. 2, No. 3.

## PRESENT AIMS AND PURPOSES.

In developing boys' and girls' club work, the purpose has been to interest boys and girls and, through them, adults in farm, home, and rural community problems; to train them in better methods of farming, gardening, poultry and animal husbandry, and home practices; to assist them in demonstrating these methods for the improvement of general farm and home conditions; to aid them in attaining an intelligent point of view and favorable attitude toward the business of farming and home making by encouraging property ownership and a feeling of partnership; to create in boys and girls an interest and desire for further systematic instruction as given in the agricultural and home economics courses in high schools, colleges of agriculture, and other schools offering definite training in the business of the farm and the home; and to socialize farm and rural life through boys' and girls' club activities by developing rural leadership, community cooperation, and a good spirit of citizenship.

## PLAN OF ORGANIZATION.

All the work has been carried on in cooperation with farm bureaus, county agents or home demonstration agents, and the public. It is based on the organization of young people into local groups which undertake definite agricultural and home economics projects, and contemplates the *definite* enrollment of members, organizing them into local clubs, with either a volunteer or paid local leader to have charge of each club group, and furnishing the leaders and groups with a definite plan of work and follow-up instructions.

*Leadership.*—The cooperative agreements with the States have made it possible for the work in each State to be organized and supervised by a State leader with a corps of assistants and district and county leaders, the work of these being supplemented by that of volunteer local leaders. Because of lack of county and local club leaders a considerable amount of the work of county and local leadership has fallen upon the county and home demonstration agents. County agents in 1918 organized 8,154 boys' and girls' clubs with a total membership of 158,056. The total number of club leaders, including State, district, and county workers in the Northern and Western States, who received pay from the State or Federal Government increased from 391 on June 30, 1917, to 985 on June 30, 1918. Of this number 596 devoted full time to the work and 389 part time. Many of the part-time leaders were trained and experienced local leaders who were employed only during the summer months. In addition to these paid leaders, nearly 600 county and district club leaders were employed by local organizations. The supervision and direction of club leadership was also greatly reinforced during 1917—



18 by the volunteer services of 13,988 local leaders who gave their time to the guidance of club groups of boys and girls in their communities under the direction of paid leaders.

To better prepare the leaders for the club work, 2,013 conferences were held during 1918. One national conference of State leaders and their assistants was held. Following this conference the State leaders called conferences of county club leaders, and following the State conferences, the county club leaders called meetings of volunteer leaders in their respective counties in order that the work of the year might be more effectively promoted through an intelligent understanding of the principles governing it. At the conferences special emphasis was placed upon problems of organization, newer phases of the work, and the yearly cycle of club activities and events. Such a system of conferences gives an opportunity for the best ideas of the club leaders to function practically and effectively in the organized clubs of boys and girls.

*Follow-up instructions.*—It has been found that the success of boys' and girls' club work depends in a very large measure upon the quality of follow-up literature and instructions furnished to both members and leaders as well as timeliness in their distribution. The United States Department of Agriculture for a number of years furnished a considerable proportion of the seasonal instructions to club members and outlined in a general way the plans and purposes of the work as it developed in the States. As the States have become better equipped to get out seasonal instructions to members, they have assumed a larger proportion of this work and the department has concentrated its efforts upon a few lines which are used to demonstrate what is believed will be helpful and worth-while instruction.

The county and local leaders are instructed to reinforce the work of the individual club members by visits to club plats at regular intervals. Field meetings are held, generally on one of the club plats, at which the members report on the progress of their work and receive instructions often in the form of demonstrations regarding procedure and management of the club activity. Teams are trained to demonstrate at public meetings throughout the community. Club meetings for inspirational purposes as well as for instruction also are held regularly. Fairs at which exhibits of products are made and contests held are encouraged. In many counties club play festivals are conducted during the summer. At the close of the season or of the work of the club project, achievement day meetings are held, at which suitable medals are given to those completing the work. During the calendar year 1918, leaders reported 204,745 personal visits to club plats, 22,750 field demonstrations, training given for 9,898 canning and bread demonstrations, 4,498 exhibits held, 4,532 club fairs and festivals, and 1,266 achievement day meetings.

*Programs of work.*—Club work has always been characterized by definitely outlined programs of work in agriculture and home making. The number of these programs have steadily increased until at the present time there are at least 20 such from which club members or farm bureaus can choose those best fitted to local needs or conditions. In the main, these programs include three phases of activity, (1) the club activity to be carried out on the farm or in the home, (2) the club meetings where the members meet to discuss and demonstrate various phases of the work, and (3) the social part as



FIG. 2.—Field instructions to father and son in corn club work.

emphasized in club play festivals, club picnics, encampments, hikes, and contests. In brief, these three phases of club work are maintained when a club member produces in quantity, demonstrates better practices, and learns to work as well as play with others. Some of the more usual club projects are as follows:

Agricultural: Bean, corn, home garden, potato, sorghum, sugar beet, tomato, baby beef, bee, dairy, pig, poultry, rabbit, and farm and home craft. Home making: Bread baking, cooking, hot school lunch, home canning, garment making, and mother-daughter.



In its development as a national movement, following the passage of the Smith-Lever Act, the general plan of boys' and girls' club work was determined upon lines which had an agricultural and home significance. The organization of clubs along such lines and the projects undertaken in a community were determined by the extension forces of the Federal Government and the State agricultural colleges in consultation with such county forces as might be interested in agricultural development, including county superintendents of schools and teachers.

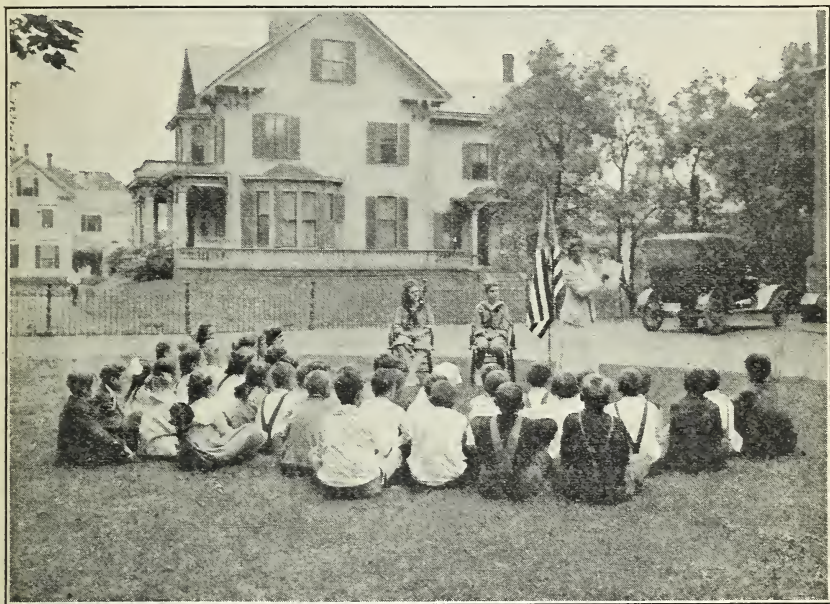


FIG. 3.—An outdoor club meeting.

The chief change that has come into club work in the Northern and Western States since its development in a national way is the policy of having it conform to the actual agricultural and home needs of each rural community in each county of a State as determined by the people living in the community. This policy is the out-growth of the farm bureau movement in the Northern and Western States which has made it possible for farmers and their wives to express themselves as to their agricultural and home needs and the needs of the rural communities in which they live.<sup>1</sup>

Under the farm bureau plan, the farmers, their wives, and others interested at a community meeting discuss their agricultural, home, and common needs and determine upon a permanent plan of im-

<sup>1</sup> See U. S. Dept. Agr. Cir. 37 "Status and Results of County Agent Work in the Northern and Western States, 1917-18."

provement and the particular lines of work that shall be immediately taken up in the community. They consider and appoint from among their number the project leaders and those who are to carry on demonstrations in each line of work. Here it is that boys' and girls' club work functions by undertaking activities that fit into and form a part of the program as worked out by the members of the county farm bureau. In accordance with this newer development of the work, the important question in the mind of a country club leader is, "How can the club activities selected by the farm bureau be made to function to the best advantage in carrying out the county program for agricultural, home, and community betterment?"

### COOPERATION WITH THE SCHOOLS.

In order that the boys and girls on the farm or in the urban districts may be reached effectively, it is important that close cooperation be maintained at all times with the school system, through the county superintendent of schools, rural teachers, and agricultural and home economics instructors. Such cooperative relationships have been encouraged both by the schools and by the club leaders ever since the work was started. In the new organization of the farm bureau the county superintendent of schools plays an important part. His wide experience with the general conditions of the county and his large acquaintance makes him a valuable asset to the executive council of the farm bureau. Through him it is possible to give all the boys and girls of the county a clear idea of what they can do as their share in bettering the farm and home conditions of the county, as outlined in the program of work of the farm bureau. This provides each boy and girl a real motive for the work. A new contact is thus developed between county superintendent and teacher, between teacher and pupil, between pupil and parent, between parent and the farm bureau. Club work, approaching agriculture and home economics from the standpoint of practical life, can thus be made a most effective aid to the regular instruction of the schools. Through such contact the teacher is often enabled to help and direct the boys and girls whose interests in agriculture or home-making activities are aroused.

Data gathered in California indicate how boys' and girls' clubs act as feeders for further educational work in agriculture. The enrollment in agricultural courses in 15 schools in districts without club leaders was compared for a period of 4 years with 15 schools in districts having paid club leaders. The steady increase of enrollment in the former as compared with the fluctuating enrollment in the latter, as shown by the following table, is indicative of the influence well-organized club work has over boys and girls.

*Average enrollment in agricultural schools in districts with and without paid club leaders.*

Class of school.	1915	1916	1917	1918
Without club leaders.....	16.2	24.6	24.6	16.4
With club leaders.....	4.5	11.4	19.2	27.0

A special effort is made through the farm bureau to reach the large number of boys and girls who leave school before entering the eighth grade. Oftentimes the enthusiasm aroused by club work enkindles in such boys and girls a desire for further systematic study at school or college to enable them better to attain the aim developed by club work in agricultural or home-making activities. Here again the county superintendent of schools and the school system function in an important way by keeping in touch with the work of the county club leader and the farm bureau, so that he may be prepared to understand and help to better advantage the boy or girl in his second attempt to master the tasks of the schoolroom. Many former members of the boys' and girls' clubs are now attending colleges of agriculture. In California, 37 agricultural club boys matriculated at the college of agriculture of the State University at Berkeley, and 46 at the agricultural school at Davis during 1918. For six weeks during the fall semester of 1918 at the Minnesota State Agricultural College, every member of the freshman class was a former club member. These facts indicate that boys' and girls' club work may and often does definitely change the viewpoint of the young people, so that they feel a greater need for preparation in the business of farming and home making. Scholarships in agricultural colleges are encouraged as legitimate and worthy prizes for notable achievements in club work. Many such prize winners are now attending colleges. Club work also opens the way to profit-making enterprises, thus enabling boys and girls to attend college on their own resources. Moreover, through boys' and girls' club work there is brought to the colleges a better grade of students because of their experiences in the successful care of farm crops, animals, and home equipment.

#### COOPERATION WITH BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS.

Boys' and girls' club work almost from its start has been recognized by business organizations, especially bankers, as a movement enriching general farming and home conditions, and encouraging economic responsibility through property ownership. In many of the club activities, especially in the live-stock clubs, bankers have financed the work by taking the notes of boys and girls and in many cases have offered prizes to the winners. In some instances bankers have become so interested in the work of the club mem-



bers that they have volunteered as local leaders. State and county fair associations have provided substantial financial aid in order to obtain exhibits and provide demonstrations by club members as a means of raising the educational standards of such fair enterprises. During 1918 many thousands of dollars were expended by business men in promoting boys' and girls' club work because of the direct benefit to be derived from this work to the community as a whole.

#### STANDARDIZATION OF THE CLUB GROUP.

During the early period of the work it became evident that if club work were to function efficiently the members should be organized into groups. While this had been a feature of the organization plan from the first, it was necessary during the first two or three years to give more specific attention to the individual member. Since 1915, however, a special effort has been made to organize the club members into self-functioning clubs supervised by local volunteer leaders. By means of such a club organization community leadership, cooperation, and higher standards of work are made possible. At the beginning of the calendar year 1918, it was agreed by the Washington office and the State club leaders that the requirements for a standard club should be as follows:

- (1) Each club shall have a membership of at least five working on the same project.
- (2) There shall be a local club leader in charge during the club year.
- (3) There shall be a local club organization with necessary officers and duties as prescribed in a club constitution.
- (4) There shall be a definite club program of work for the year.
- (5) There shall be held at least six regular club meetings during the year. The secretary shall be required to keep definite records of these meetings and also of the progress of each member.
- (6) A local exhibit shall be held annually by the club.
- (7) There shall be a club demonstration team which must give at least one public demonstration in the home community.
- (8) At least 60 per cent of the members must complete the farm or home demonstration and file a final report with the county or State club leader.
- (9) A judging team shall be chosen by competition between the members.
- (10) An achievement day program shall be held at the completion of the work.
- (11) The club shall hold a membership in the farm bureau or other county extension organization.

When the first four requirements have been met, a standard club charter is issued. When all the requirements have been met for any one year a seal of achievement is awarded.

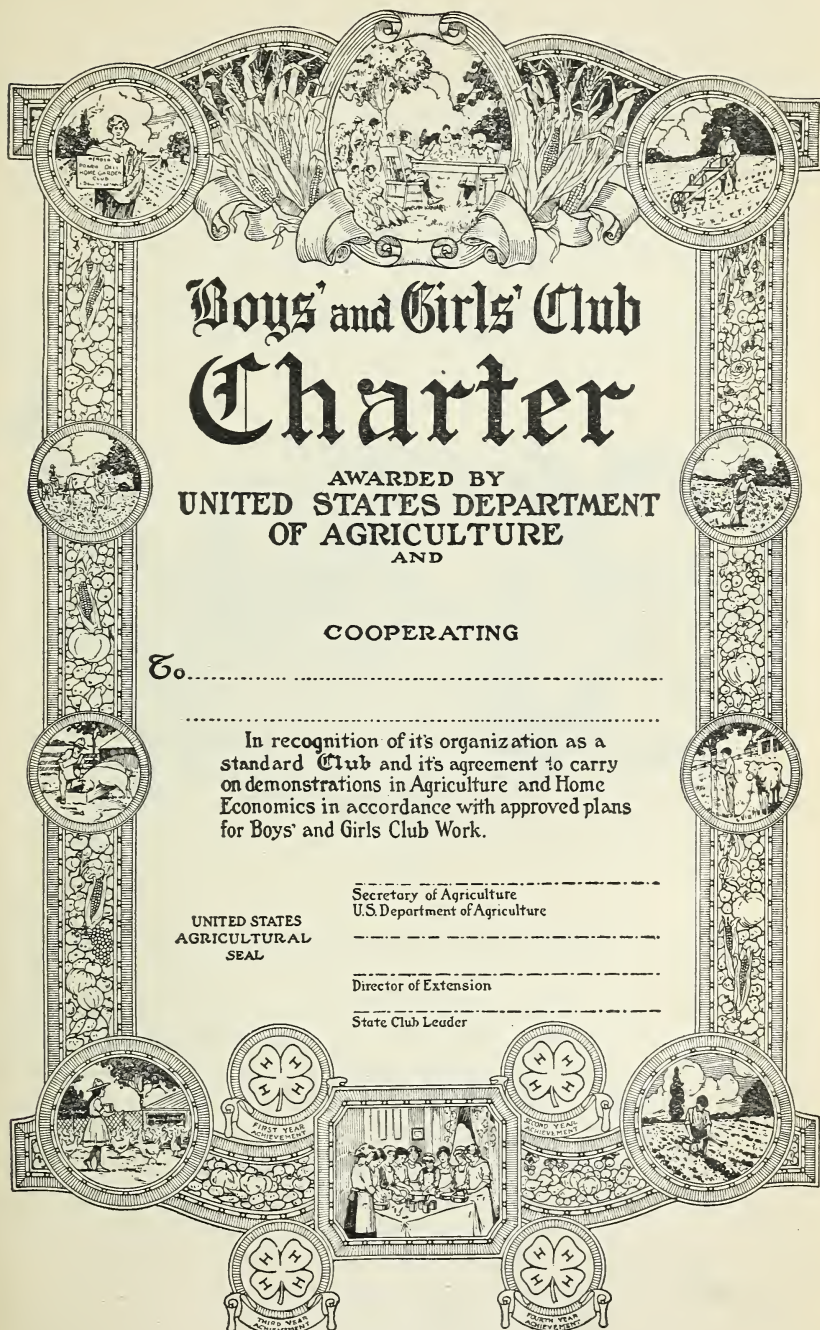


FIG. 4.—Boys' and girls' club charter.

The fact that there were organized during 1918 in the 33 Northern and Western States 6,214 such standard club groups, all of them doing definite farm and home demonstration work, holding regular meetings, and reinforcing one another in the business of farm and home making, emphasizes the fact that these young people, through their own community organization, are furnishing a potential force in community development which will do much toward improving general farm and home conditions.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF FULL-TIME COUNTY CLUB LEADERS.

Early in the development of the work, it was found that local clubs could not be maintained effectively nor could the work in general

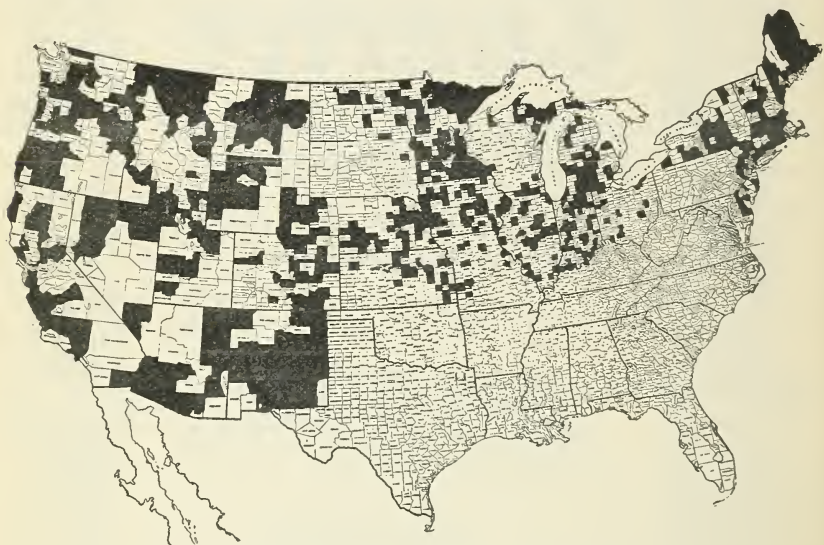


FIG. 5.—Map showing number of counties employing paid club leaders during 1918. Counties in black employ paid club leaders.

function adequately and properly with only long-range supervision centered in a State office. The next step, therefore, was the installation of paid county club leaders, thus centering the responsibility closer to the work. Lack of funds did not permit an extension of this plan in any substantial way until the passage of the food production act in August, 1917. During the calendar year 1918, there were 366 such leaders, of which 97 were employed on full time. There were also 27 full-time assistant county club leaders. Massachusetts was the first State in the North and West to place a full-time county club leader in every county.

The work in Saunders County, Nebr., illustrates how much more effectively club work for boys and girls can be carried on when a county club leader is employed than when a direct contact is main-



tained only between the State club leader and the individual member. The boys and girls in Saunders County were unorganized until 1918. Twenty had tried to do farm and home demonstration work by themselves, but because of a lack of encouragement and competition as well as of knowledge as to what constitutes high standards of work, but little was accomplished. In 1918 money was provided to employ a county club leader on full time, and in one year of this leadership 28 clubs of various types were organized with a membership of 184. Besides these there were 18 boys and girls who carried on club work by themselves, being unable to join a club group, owing in many cases to their extreme isolation from neighbors. Fifty-four boys and girls worked together in groups without club organization. Altogether 256 boys and girls in the county were engaged in food pro-

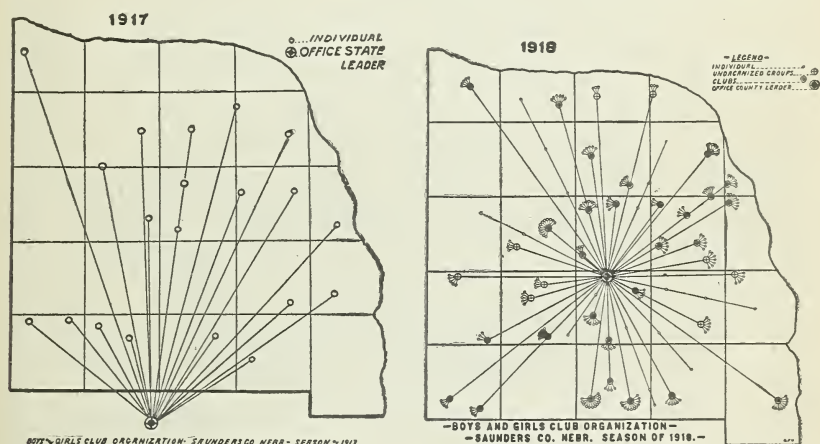


FIG. 6.—Increase in efficiency of club work due to employment of paid county club leader, Saunders County, Nebr.

duction in 1918. They also demonstrated to other boys and girls and to some conservative older people that work is drudgery only when there is no interest in it, and that the best enjoyment comes from working together in an intelligent way on a job worth while.

In 1918, in Montgomery County, Ind., where little organized club work was done previous to the employment of a county club leader for the year 1918, 153 members of the canning clubs canned 10,955 quarts of fruit and vegetables; 166 members of the poultry clubs raised 5,041 chicks; 99 members of the pig clubs raised 5,759 pounds of pork; 16 members of a potato club raised 170 bushels of potatoes; 102 members of the garden clubs cultivated 396,435 square feet of garden; and 6 boys in a calf club raised 3,650 pounds of veal. Of a total 843 boys and girls of the county who enrolled for club activities during the year, 625 or 74 per cent completed their work,

including the making of complete reports, exhibiting, demonstrating, and participating in all the functions of their club group.

This method of conducting extension work has given very satisfactory results and although the number of county club leaders was greatly increased under the food production act, there still is an insistent demand from counties for cooperation in the employment of more leaders.

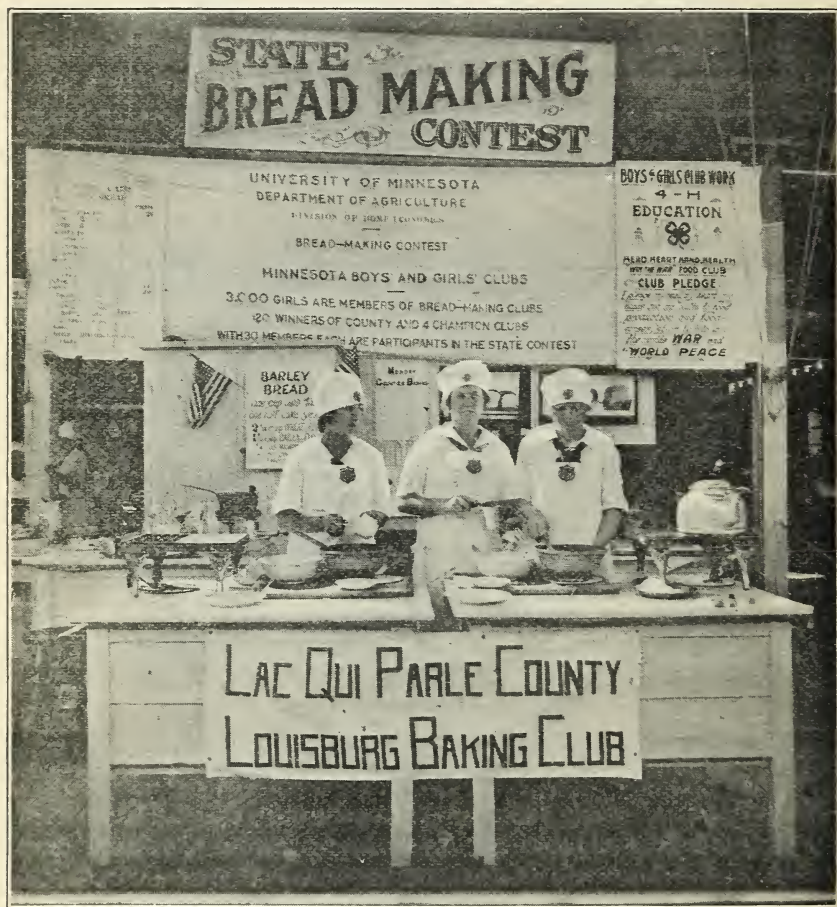


FIG. 7.—Demonstration by Minnesota bread club team.

#### BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB DEMONSTRATION TEAMS.

Of all the phases of boys' and girls' club work which have been developed during the past four years, none has given more satisfactory results than that of the demonstration teams. This work is really a step in advance of the demonstrational impetus given to all extension activities, in that as the members of club demonstration teams are chosen from their local club to carry the improved



practices in agriculture or home making by actual operation beyond the confines of their immediate neighborhood. Since the work was started, teams of boys' and girls' club members have been trained to demonstrate better methods in home canning, drying, garment making, butter making, bread making, cow testing, seed-corn selection, farm craft work, and other agricultural and home economics activities.

There are two distinct types of demonstration teams—one in which the members demonstrate methods of better practices in the operation itself, and the other in which club members are trained to judge the finished product. The latter is sometimes referred to as a judging team. A judging team in corn-club work, for instance, may be concerned in scoring corn exhibits of various kinds, putting its skill against that of other teams engaged in the same work, while a judging team in poultry may base its skill upon scoring the pens of birds exhibited at the club fair.

During the year 1918, 41 stock-judging contests were conducted in Pennsylvania. Of this work the State club leader writes as follows:

It has given hundreds of boys and girls higher ideals in regard to farm animals. As a result many have become members of the live-stock clubs. These contests are usually held at the county fairs and indirectly have influenced many farmers who were spectators only. Purebred animals have been given as prizes in these contests and have frequently become foundation for herds in the hands of the winners.

The demonstration contests are held on a graduated basis, beginning with the local contest, and extending to the county, State, and interstate contests. In the past few years, interstate contests have been held at Springfield, Mass., Sioux City, Iowa, and Spokane, Wash. Such demonstrations proved to be one of the most effective agencies in making a direct appeal to the general public during the war to increase food production and conservation. In Minnesota alone for the year 1918 there were 77 bread-making demonstration teams which gave 714 public demonstrations showing the use of wheat substitutes. The influence of this work as a demonstrational activity may be gauged to some extent by the following statement of a yeast company of Chicago:

You will be interested to know that, judging from the yeast sales throughout the entire United States, we consider that there was a more intelligent use of substitutes combined with regular wheat flour in bread making throughout the homes of Minnesota than in any other State in the Union, due, doubtless, and to a large degree, to the excellent and constructive work which has been done in the boys' and girls' bread clubs.

### SELECTION OF ALL-STAR CHAMPIONS.

Along with the effort to raise the standards of work in club groups, there has been an effort, for a number of years, to get the boys and girls to achieve high standards in the individual work of their farm and home demonstration. Contests have been held in which local, county, and State-wide champions have been selected according to a fixed basis of awards which includes cost of work, yield, profit, rating of exhibit, record, and story. Each State champion in turn automatically becomes a life member of the national all-star club. Official records submitted by the State leaders in charge show that for the calendar year 1918 there were 119 such champions. These champions are encouraged not only to continue their work in schools or colleges, sometimes having won scholarships, but are also encouraged by their local, county, and State leaders to become community leaders themselves, thereby making a definite contribution toward raising the community standards.

Many of the champions have won the respect of the people of their State by showing unusual initiative and the development of admirable qualities of citizenship. A Utah girl, an all-star club member, was awarded a trip to California. When the war broke out in Europe and she read of the hardship of the overridden people, it made her ponder as to what she could do. In a few days, the President of the Utah State Agricultural College received a letter from her asking that he send the money which her trip would cost to the Belgians.

### JUNIOR INSTITUTES OR SHORT COURSES.

More junior institutes or short courses for boys' and girls' club members were held in the counties and at the State agricultural colleges during the year 1918 than in any previous year. These courses usually last from two days to one week. The boys and girls are shown how the work they have been doing on their club plats or in the home is carried on at the college. Demonstrations, judging contests, and exhibits are held in which the boys and girls themselves participate. Attention is also given to the recreational side of club work. The latter has been necessary in order to develop in boys and girls a happier attitude toward the work of the farm and the home. These courses have been successful in inspiring many of the club members attending with the desire to take the four years' agricultural or home economics courses offered at the colleges.

### BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB NEWS.

Since 1917 many of the State agricultural colleges have been issuing monthly papers devoted entirely to information pertaining to

better methods for promoting extension work with boys and girls. This news service to the county and local volunteer leaders in the various States is now being reenforced by mimeographed material containing suggestions for improvement of general club activities, sent out from Washington by the Boys' and Girls' Club Section of the Office of Extension Work North and West. These suggestions are usually taken from the monthly reports of the State club leaders on the results of their experiences in handling the club problems of their respective States. By this means it is sought to keep all those interested in the promotion of club work in touch with the best practices in such work throughout the country.



FIG. 8.—Boys' and girls' club winners visiting the college farm, New Jersey State Agricultural College.

## RESULTS.

### INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP.

With the exception of 1916, when a special effort was made to restrict the membership because it was growing too rapidly to be properly supervised with the funds available, there has been a steady growth each year in enrollment in clubs. The large increases in 1917 and 1918 were made possible by the additional funds provided by the food production act. Enrollment, however, is merely the foundation upon which successful club work is built. A better gauge of the success of the work is the number of boys and girls who complete the work and make their final reports.

It will be noted from the following table that nearly 50 per cent of the members enrolled in 1918 reported results. This is a higher percentage than in any preceding year, due largely to the better organization of the work.



*Leaders employed, clubs organized, enrollment, and members reporting results.*

Year.	Paid leaders employed.		Clubs organized.	Total enrollment.	Members reporting results.
	State.	County and district.			
1912.....	3	.....	.....	22,000	.....
1913.....	12	8	.....	71,959	.....
1914.....	34	9	.....	147,077	.....
1915.....	39	23	7,322	209,178	62,264
1916.....	38	34	7,849	198,759	85,324
1917.....	60	180	13,883	440,606	160,624
1918.....	148	870	21,845	527,723	251,032

**WORK IN FOOD PRODUCTION.**

That the underlying principles of club work are sound was plainly indicated by the ease with which club work adjusted itself to war conditions. During this period, the program of work with boys and girls was planned more largely in accord with the demand for increased production of food and strict economy in its use.

More home gardens made possible during the war.—The need for an increased interest in home gardening among boys and girls has always been urgent. Gardening was one of the three lines of boys' and girls' club work started in 1912. It has been one of the largest and most interesting of the club activities ever since. During the war the need for an increased supply of home-grown foodstuffs became so urgent that a special effort was made to stress home garden activities in the clubs.

Approximately one-half the enrollment in clubs during 1918 was in the garden project. In addition to the 243,406 members regularly enrolled, the club leaders assisted 593,090 boys and girls in the war garden work as a further means of increasing the food production of the country. Many of these additional war garden club members were enrolled in such organizations as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and school organizations of various kinds. Accurate data as to the amount of food products produced by them are not available. The 115,725 garden club members regularly enrolled in the boys' and girls' work made complete and accurate reports at the close of the season which showed they had produced garden foodstuffs to the estimated value of \$1,693,520.58 at a cost of \$534,043.79. No data are available as to the amount of foodstuffs produced by the club members who failed to make complete reports, but it is reasonable to assume that a large proportion of these members also completed their garden work, although unwilling to take time to keep records and make reports.

The food thus raised in the local communities relieved transportation difficulties to a considerable extent. The club members not only

produced enough food for their own families but sold much for local consumption. Boys' and girls' club markets were established in many of the towns. Instructions were given by county and local club leaders to the members in the preparation of their products for marketing and methods of selling. Many boys and girls in distinctly rural districts erected stands along the roadside on which to display their fresh fruits and vegetables to the traveling public. In some towns club members prepared attractive baskets of fruit which they sold at the stations regularly to passengers on through trains. By such means the business ability of boys and girls was



FIG. 9.—Field demonstration in spraying.

developed. In addition, due to the campaign for more and larger gardens, greater amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables were used in the American home, resulting in improved health and efficiency.

**Greater yield from potato-club plats.**—The boys and girls in the potato clubs raised during the calendar year 1918, 646,503 bushels of potatoes. In Maine, potato clubs were organized for the purpose of interesting boys and girls in producing certified potato seed and as an object lesson to the farmers in raising the standard of seed potatoes. The boys' potato plats were inspected by a representative of the Maine State Department of Agriculture. One potato club reported that 20 acres of potatoes passed the first inspection; 18 acres passed



the second inspection; and that a one-half acre plat of one club member passed perfect inspection. At harvest time two carloads of certified potatoes were sold to the Eastern States Farmers' Exchange at \$5 a barrel for spring delivery. Plans were later under consideration to send a third car of the same class of seed potatoes to this organization to be distributed to boys' and girls' potato club members of Massachusetts. Encouraged by their success, the Maine boys' and girls' potato club has formed a corporation to do business on a larger scale than during the past season.

**Bean-club work.**—Bean-club work, although but little considered as a club project, has given satisfactory results. During 1918, 177,890 bushels of beans with an estimated value of \$60,067 were produced.

In California, one boys' agricultural club developed a strain of beans that bear more than treble the number of pods to the plant than the variety commonly grown in the community. The demand for selected bean seed in California has increased to such an extent that many club members of the State are planning to make a regular business of producing and selling seed to the farmers. Some have reported that their fathers are going into partnership with them.

A club boy of the State of Washington made \$65 profit from his one-tenth acre of beans. His seed—6 pounds of Kentucky Wonder pole beans and 3 pounds of bush beans—was planted on land which had never been cropped. It required 1,420 poles to stake the plants when the vines began to run. He writes in his report:

The most fun was picking the long, fat pods. At one picking I would get as high as 14 big sacks. I spent \$16 of the \$65 I made for clothes, \$2 for an air gun, \$7 for some rabbits, and gave the rest to my father to help toward buying an auto to go to school in.

**Importance of corn-club work during the war.**—Along with the propaganda to produce more meat, there went out also an appeal to grow more feed in order that the cost of production of meat might be lessened. Altogether, club members produced 313,779 bushels of corn with an estimated value of \$453,158. Public demonstrations to show improved methods of seed selection, corn testing, and grading were given by club members in many of the States.

The State club leader of North Dakota writes:

Climatic conditions in North Dakota for the past two growing seasons have been very unfavorable. Late spring frosts, hail, and early fall frosts in 1917 resulted in little home-grown seed corn for use during 1918. However, only those who were fortunate enough to have home-grown seed corn were able to complete successfully their club work. This experience proves again the need for home-grown seed and constitutes in itself a demonstration of good practices in raising corn to all the farmers of the State.

In Indiana, 11 Monroe County boys in 1918 produced 1,003.9 bushels of air-dried corn on 11 measured acres. Although there have been higher individual yields, this average yield of 91.3 bushels

per acre for an entire club has never been equaled in the history of the boys' corn-club work in Indiana.

The grand championship club member of Delaware for 1918 cleared \$183.21 from his corn-club work in 1917, and at the State corn show in competition with the best corn growers won sweepstakes for the best single ear and the best 20-ear exhibit. In 1918 he applied his 1917 club earnings to the purchase price of a purebred Holstein heifer and a purebred Holstein calf. At the New Castle-Kent County corn show he exhibited the best club corn and also won the grand championship prize for having the best 10-ear and 50-ear exhibits. His club acre produced 63.4 bushels in 1918 on a shelled-corn basis, allowing 15 per cent for normal crib-corn moisture. This champion club member will complete the high-school course at Newark in the spring of 1919, and in the fall he expects to enter Delaware College for a four years' course in agriculture.

**Results of first year's work in raising sugar beets.**—The club work with sugar beets was introduced into the Northern and Western States, where the sugar beet could be grown economically, as an emergency project during 1918, for the purpose of increasing the sugar supply. A limited number of clubs were organized and through them the work was introduced as a distinct project or as a part of the home garden work.

The most important work on this project was done in Utah, where 73 clubs were organized with an enrollment of 1,314. Each member raised from one-half to 3 acres of beets. The average yield was 17 tons per acre. The estimated value of beets raised was \$223,380, the average price paid per ton by the factory being \$10. The boys and girls engaged in the work in Utah and other States, manufactured sugar-beet sirup at home and used it in connection with home cooking and in many instances in connection with home canning. Many of the boys and girls were also trained to publicly demonstrate the use of the sirup.

Those who grew sugar beets in the home garden found that they were not only excellent for home manufacture of sugar-beet sirup, but also that the beets and tops could be used in various ways. Most of the people who tried them found the young tops made excellent vegetable greens, and that the young tender beets were a good vegetable. The large tops and beets were used for poultry feed for both summer and winter. The beets were also dried and ground into flour. This flour was used in many instances in home baking, serving as a good substitute not only for sugar but for wheat flour.

The results obtained during the first year in growing sugar beets indicate that as a home garden or as a market crop they have interesting and economic possibilities but also some limitations. The home manufacture of sirup from sugar beets was mainly an emer-

gency proposition to save sugar. Sugar-beet products for table use and for poultry are entirely practical and should be encouraged in the garden club work. Boys and girls should be encouraged also to belong to sugar-beet clubs in order to increase the output of American beet sugar in sections of the country having beet-sugar factories.

**Increased production of meat through live-stock clubs.**—The live-stock industry is being stimulated and improved to a greater degree than ever before by the various live-stock clubs, such as purebred heifer clubs and purebred pig clubs, and purebred stock introduced by the club members is being very generally used as a foundation for purebred herds. This effort to do away with scrub stock generally has the cooperation of live-stock breeders' associations and bankers, as well as business men's associations. Often the purebred pigs raised

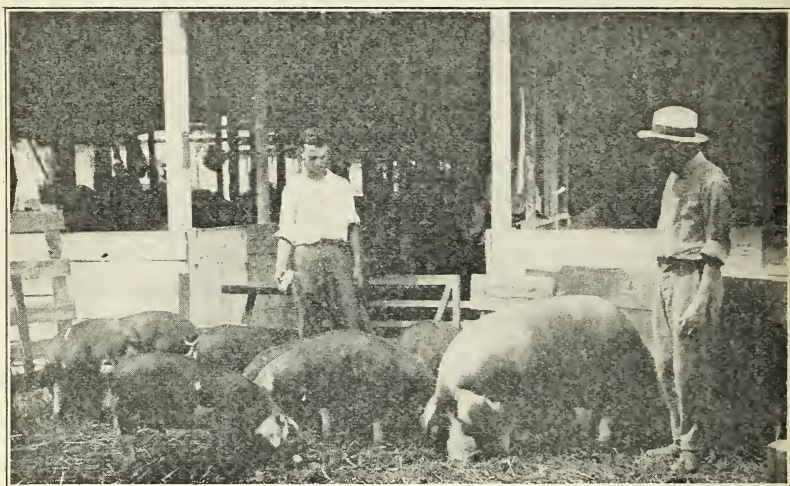


FIG. 10.—What property ownership means to one club member. Five hundred dollars was offered for the lot.

by the club are sold to neighboring farmers, thereby spreading the influence of better stock throughout the community. This kind of club work has been particularly successful in Iowa, Wisconsin, Indiana, and other States of the Central West, as well as in the Eastern and New England States, where there are many dairy calf clubs. Boys' and girls' club work has also been a means of introducing purebred swine into the Western and Southwestern States.

A striking illustration of how the boys' and girls' club work helps the general farming conditions of the State through the live-stock industry is reported from Utah, where two years ago the State club leader purchased eight carloads of purebred gilts for distribution to boys' and girls' club members of the State. This start stimulated the hog industry of the State to a very perceptible degree, and it is estimated that there are now in the State of Utah twice as many



farmers raising purebred hogs as formerly. In addition, about 2,000 boys and girls have made a good start in hog farming and are anchored effectively to the farm home by profitable ownership.

The results of the pig-club work in 1918 are summarized in the following table:

*Summary of pig-club work, 1918.*

State.	Clubs organ- ized.	Enroll- ment.	Results reported.			
			Members re- porting.	Animals man- aged.	Total pounds pork.	Total estimated value.
Arizona .....	19	209	52	56	7,952	\$1,368.09
California .....	161	1,150	727	908	201,763	32,983.25
Colorado .....	90	733	627	1,095	367,090	89,954.55
Connecticut .....	29	2,845	411	429	78,486	15,685.91
Delaware .....	12	80	80	91	17,913	3,905.36
Idaho .....	110	571	46	55	.....	1,608.35
Illinois .....	109	924	480	562	92,841	24,684.56
Indiana .....	204	2,155	1,079	1,606	152,563	56,835.91
Iowa .....	65	1,803	400	517	115,598	20,807.64
Kansas .....	51	600	350	787	125,920	21,406.00
Maine .....	163	766	250	266	51,184	9,056.22
Massachusetts .....	179	3,358	.....	3,594	844,590	152,026.20
Michigan .....	22	116	102	118	16,936	5,246.40
Minnesota .....	255	1,112	810	1,025	177,020	30,093.40
Missouri .....	44	805	478	850	142,966	24,781.30
Montana .....	38	343	278	300	42,214	8,012.20
Nebraska .....	1	1,883	185	372	63,372	13,068.16
Nevada .....	5	56	12	39	5,380	671.25
New Hampshire .....	16	388	52	92	12,788	2,367.13
New Jersey .....	19	236	153	171	33,271	8,093.90
New Mexico .....	72	623	398	451	47,808	14,522.78
New York .....	.....	990	828	941	.....	30,115.70
North Dakota .....	9	343	55	91	13,859	2,108.28
Ohio .....	175	975	633	792	156,107	43,221.40
Oregon .....	.....	1,280	376	776	98,481	21,065.31
Rhode Island .....	11	179	166	246	36,100	9,790.00
South Dakota .....	9	1,018	453	1,812	453,000	81,540.32
Utah .....	118	2,360	2,020	3,540	654,900	141,600.00
Vermont .....	.....	1,291	267	.....	47,831	11,001.07
Washington .....	274	1,033	288	728	96,904	24,183.85
Wisconsin .....	64	1,099	835	1,144	248,392	42,317.00
Wyoming .....	7	152	83	147	19,822	2,938.60
Total .....	2,331	31,476	12,974	24,501	4,433,081	947,570.09

In the baby beef work, 589,123 pounds of beef were produced in sections of the country where feed was plentiful. In addition, 2,552 purebred calves for dairy purposes were successfully raised. An unusual amount of work was done in cow testing in some States, where club members gave public demonstrations at community meetings, county and State fairs.

To meet the shortage of wool and to stimulate greater interest in sheep production, clubs were urged to handle the orphan lambs, of which there are large numbers on the big sheep ranches. Such lambs require too much care for the average ranchman to bother with them. The patience, care, and good nursing of club members saved thousands of such animals. Club members were also urged to raise sheep at less cost through the use of well-bred stock and the utilization of pastures, grazing crops, and wastes. In addition, much instruction was given in judging, selecting, feeding, and caring for sheep as well as in the marketing of wool, in order that such club members

may in time become trained flock masters. During 1918 the reports show that altogether 8,005 lambs were raised.



FIG. 11.—Demonstration in candling eggs by a county club leader.

#### A Wyoming girl writes:

I entered the sheep club with 65 head of ewes, which I bought out of earnings from my other club activities. I also had 13 orphan lambs which I raised on cow's milk. Last spring they were 3 years old, and I got 155 pounds of wool from the 13 head, receiving \$96 for it. From my entire flock I got 650



pounds of wool. The men who sheared my sheep said that they had not sheared sheep so fine or ones that had produced as much wool since they started to shear in the spring. I also got 75 lambs from my ewes, having 5 sets of twins.

She further writes:

If I have as large lamb and wool crops as I expect to have within the next few years, I hope to be able to join the big sheep conventions.

**Clubs formed to overcome the shortage of meat.**—To relieve the shortage of meat in the home and reduce the demand on transportation, boys and girls enrolled in rabbit and poultry clubs. A special appeal was made to urban boys and girls because of the ease with which such clubs could be carried on under city conditions. As a result of the work undertaken in these two projects, 26,322 rabbits and 331,072 chicks were raised. Club members also reported having gathered 133,564 dozen eggs. Club members made a business of selling their rabbits and poultry as well as canning what could not be used for immediate consumption. Demonstrations were given by club leaders as well as by club members throughout the year in building improved poultry housing equipment, culling flocks, marketing dressed poultry and eggs, canning fowls, and preserving eggs in water glass and preparing them for the table.

Results of the poultry club work in 1918 are summarized in the following table:

*Summary of poultry club work, 1918.*

State.	Clubs organized.	Enrollment.	Results reported.				Total estimated value.
			Members reporting.	Total chicks hatched.	Total laying hens.	Total dozen eggs.	
Arizona.....	24	274	132	1,962	.....	.....	\$1,245.97
California.....	46	372	152	2,641	435	1,831	3,667.96
Colorado.....	56	500	295	2,655	390	1,950	2,958.75
Connecticut.....	32	3,748	300	1,656	2,923	13,717	8,615.29
Delaware.....	9	49	23	184	108	365	650.35
Idaho.....	81	437	35	476	.....	.....	614.57
Illinois.....	176	2,785	656	7,816	5,360	34,414	28,579.61
Indiana.....	59	1,126	615	21,755	740	840	24,150.00
Iowa.....	22	731	34	1,046	.....	.....	1,145.63
Kansas.....	58	618	300	9,226	1,378	3,776	6,708.45
Maine.....	137	259	86	1,817	.....	.....	1,835.78
Massachusetts.....	10	758	132	6,760	2,600	36,595	20,785.50
Michigan.....	65	520	280	8,700	1,040	.....	9,690.60
Minnesota.....	.....	.....	175	5,250	.....	.....	3,517.00
Missouri.....	219	2,482	735	18,152	.....	.....	13,614.00
Montana.....	106	989	714	17,902	.....	.....	13,120.90
Nebraska.....	45	5,543	1,209	34,665	.....	2,982	17,803.30
Nevada.....	20	151	41	1,011	42	283	2,130.65
New Hampshire.....	.....	152	11	212	89	148	784.62
New Jersey.....	32	404	223	4,646	.....	.....	7,396.87
New Mexico.....	51	384	185	4,213	.....	.....	3,133.92
New York.....	.....	1,072	855	.....	12,751	.....	13,118.17
North Dakota.....	66	1,456	328	6,140	.....	.....	4,705.17
Ohio.....	186	1,904	455	10,086	.....	.....	10,385.44
Oregon.....	.....	1,309	175	6,928	276	2,596	8,481.49
Rhode Island.....	75	1,029	590	7,194	6,030	21,675	52,793.83
South Dakota.....	9	2,815	1,191	23,820	.....	.....	23,329.00
Utah.....	109	1,526	1,318	45,780	.....	.....	22,890.00
Vermont.....	.....	2,680	485	6,616	1,306	363	1,779.20
Washington.....	252	909	179	4,397	5,057	8,853	9,325.09
Wisconsin.....	203	5,075	4,110	62,900	210	1,838	80,649.33
Wyoming.....	23	166	109	4,196	.....	1,340	2,631.25
Total.....	2,171	37,723	16,128	331,072	40,735	133,565	402,237.69

## WORK IN FOOD CONSERVATION.

Work in food conservation and thrift, even before the war, was emphasized in the home canning, bread baking, cooking, and hot school lunch clubs. This rendered it possible for club members merely to quicken their efforts when the appeal for greater food conservation was made by the Government. During the years of the war the work of these club members, especially in those homes where the duties of the mother were many, served as a valuable aid in solving the difficult problems due to the enforced use of substitutes.

**Home canning.**—Home canning has always been one of the most practical of the club activities, because of its economic and social

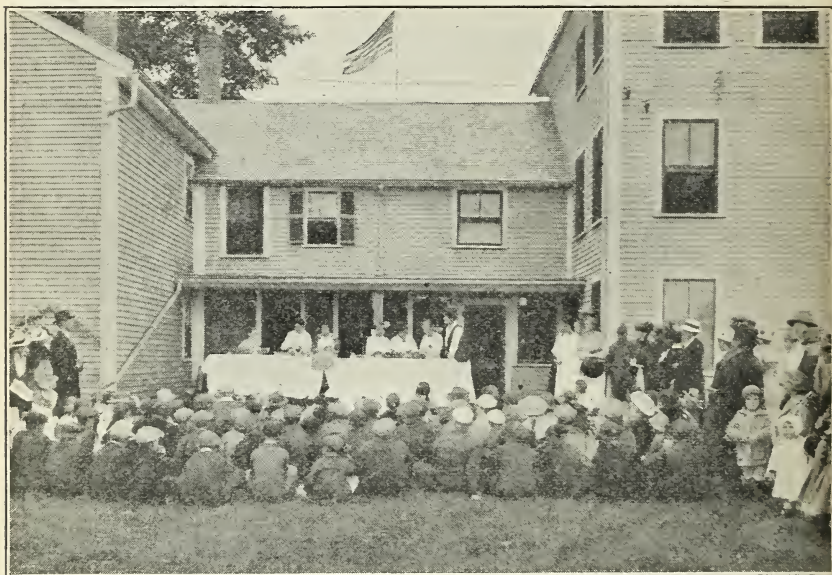


FIG. 12.—A demonstration by two canning teams at a field meeting in New Hampshire.

value as well as its value from the standpoint of thrift and health. During the war, the importance of such work loomed up greater than ever before as a means of increasing the food supply and lessening transportation difficulties. Fresh fruits and vegetables raised at home were canned, thus eliminating waste from the garden and giving the family a winter supply of wholesome garden products on the pantry shelves. Wild fruits, wild game, and fresh and salt-water fish were also conserved in large quantities. The canning of cockerels during the culling season was emphasized as a means of saving feed and cartage to market, while the canning of meats during the butchering season was emphasized as a means of conserving every part of the animal and extending the home meat supply.

To get more people to conserve food, 8,586 public canning demonstrations were given. For the calendar year 1918 the reports show that the regular club members put up over 1,997,964 quarts of fruits, vegetables, meats, and soups besides 162,523 jars of jellies, jams, and preserves. The valuation of this piece of work alone, including the work of the mother-daughter clubs, totaled \$882,487.

Canning usually has been one of the first projects in a community, because it has for a motive something definitely and immediately helpful to the home and to the farm. It not only affects the bank account, the returns per acre, and the net profit, but it also insures a better balanced ration and consequently a better fed and more efficient home and community group. Besides it provides as it did during the war a means of keeping food when there may be a scarcity. In addition, it has been found to be the best home interest club activity available because it enters the home by way of the back yard and the kitchen where truth is lived and told. Through home canning the club leader is able to perform a real service to the mother, the daughter, and the home, by becoming acquainted, through the club demonstration, with the life and thought of the entire family. Viewing the general work done in home canning, especially during the period of the war, it is of interest to note how it has received added attention and increasing respect as a task which all boys and girls as well as adults should know how to perform. This has been due largely to improved methods contributing materially to ease in procedure, to varied improvements in canning equipment, together with the more far-reaching results accruing from home canning itself, as has already been emphasized. In brief, the statement may safely be made that home canning to-day has won for itself a distinct place among the few permanent home industries.

**Community canning kitchens.**—At the outbreak of the war many homes were not equipped to can surplus fruits and vegetables on a large scale without interfering with the kitchen operations essential to the daily routine in feeding the family. In many cases boys and girls equipped separate rooms or houses for their canning work. In addition to these, a number of community canning kitchens were established in order that both boys and girls and adults might be brought together for work and instruction in canning. During the season 1918 there were in the Northern and Western States at least 150 such kitchens, to which club members were able to take the large quantities of vegetables produced in their gardens and can them under the direction of competent leaders. Aside from its economic usefulness, the community canning plant has had a socializing influence as it has enabled the people of the community to get together for play as well as work.



In St. Louis, Mo., alone, 16 clubs with a total membership of 618, canned 11,439 quarts of food valued at \$5,990.60. This work was conducted entirely through the community canning kitchens established by the club leaders. In addition, club members gave 22 public demonstrations in the various canning centers and staged 5 public canning displays. Of the 618 members enrolled for the summer's work in these community canning kitchens 459 earned achievement medals.

**Home drying.**—Drying of fruits and vegetables and the jerking of meats, particularly wild game in the mountainous sections of the country, proved another valuable means by which club members could conserve food. Through demonstrations and work undertaken over 42,909 pounds of dried food were saved during 1918. Drying proved to be an especially advantageous means of keeping food in those sections of the country where it could be done successfully out of doors. Club members gave many demonstrations to those who had to carry food long distances over mountains and into parts of the country distant from railroads. In some community plants, food was also dried by club members to be sent abroad or to near-by camps for the soldiers. From the experience gained during the war, drying will continue to be advocated as the best method of keeping certain foods. Drying will also be continued by the thrifty club member who desires to help her mother and family in general by drying the odd bits and left overs for use in soups and combination dishes.

**Saving of wheat, fats, meats, and sugar during the war.**—Throughout the entire period of the war the bread-baking clubs demonstrated methods of using wheat substitutes in the home. These clubs made in all over 193,207 loaves of bread with the wheat substitutes and gave 1,212 public bread demonstrations. Many members reported also in this project that they were now doing the regular bakings for the family.

A Massachusetts bread-club girl, one of a family of eight, during 1918, baked 140 loaves of bread. Her father is a wealthy cotton broker and three servants are employed in the family. Her mother, enthusiastic over the work, wrote of her own volition to the club leader:

I was delighted with the spirit in which my daughter took up the work, and with but one or two exceptions her bread was delicious. Her only trouble was that she wanted to do too much. As it was, she made all the bread for the family during the contest and continues to make bread and cake when permitted. I can not say enough for the club.

In the cooking clubs, work in preparing food using less meat, fat, sugar, and wheat flour was emphasized. The aim of the club members in these clubs was to prepare for the family attractive, nutritious food conforming to the regulations of the Food Administration as

well as to learn how to plan well-balanced meals. During the calendar year, 43,190 baked dishes were thus served by club members to their families.

The hot school-lunch clubs in those States where such work is organized did splendid service in demonstrating to the parents simple methods of preparing good, palatable food, especially adapted to children. In Michigan, during 1918, club members served 7,106 lunches in the rural schools, thereby furnishing that number of concrete examples of how to save wheat, fats, and sugar as a war measure in the preparation of food for boys and girls.



FIG. 13.—Garment-making club members learning to keep cost records.

#### **THRIFT AS PRACTICED IN THE GARMENT-MAKING CLUBS.**

As a thrift measure, members of the garment-making clubs were organized to make over and repair their own clothing and that of the family. During 1918, club members made over 13,864 garments and repaired 14,107. In addition to the regular work outlined for the year, the clubs made 98,500 garments and articles for the Red Cross and for French and Belgian orphans. Members reported in many cases also that they were helping with the family sewing. In all 198,822 garments and articles were made and repaired by members of the garment-making clubs reporting.

The suggested programs of work, oftentimes parts of the farm bureau programs, afforded club members not only an opportunity to

learn how to make their own clothing and keep it in repair, but how to acquire a knowledge of correct standards of dress and personal appearance, and to judge the value of well-made articles; how to exercise economy and judgment in buying; and how to make garment-making play its part in adding to the happiness and comfort of the home.

In nearly all the States the girls learned to sew on the machine early in their work, and to use commercial patterns. Some of the programs offered by the farm bureaus included the making of garments for other club activities—as, for example, canning club aprons and garden club uniforms. In other programs simple, durable underwear was emphasized. In connection with such work easy decorative stitches were taught, to take the place of cheap or elaborate trimming. In several States renovation and retrimming of hats played an important part.

Team demonstrations in the various phases of garment-making work proved a valuable aid in calling attention to what can be done to lessen the cost of clothing. Among such, those in the care and repair of clothing, remodeling, dyeing, laundering, and dressmaking were the most popular. These demonstrations were successful many times in awakening parents to the possibilities of club work in their own homes. Parents in general, where the work was under way, encouraged their daughters to become members of the garment-making clubs in order that they might take a greater interest in the home, planning and working for the good of the whole.

#### PIT AND SHELL DRIVE.

During the summer of 1918 an urgent appeal was made to the boys' and girls' club organizations by the Chemical Warfare Service, Gas Defense Division of the United States Army, for the collection of seeds or pits and fruit shells to make carbon for gas masks for our soldiers and those of the allies.

An intensive campaign was conducted by all the club leaders, and special contests and drives were introduced. As a result tons of pits and shells were collected and forwarded to the Army through the agency of the American Red Cross. Of this work Secretary of War Baker, in a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Houston, writes:

I wish to say that nowhere did the Gas Defense Division meet with a finer response to its requests for assistance in pushing the campaign than in the various divisions of the Department of Agriculture.



## SUMMARY OF RESULTS.

Below is a summary giving the different club activities, clubs organized, enrollment, members making complete reports, amount produced, and value of products reported by club members for the year 1918.

*Summary of results of club work.*

Project.	Clubs organized.	Enrollment.	Results reported.		
			Members reporting results.	Produced.	Estimated value of product.
Corn.....	841	13,864	5,723	313,778 bushels.....	\$453,158.99
Potato.....	1,240	23,316	11,307	646,503 bushels.....	650,093.69
Home garden....	6,057	243,406	115,725	2,987,983 square yards.....	1,693,520.58
Home canning...	3,898	78,927	41,823	1,901,789 quarts canned.....	829,125.59
				133,086 jars preserves.....	
				829,125 pounds dried.....	
Mother-daughter canning.	235	5,024	3,498	96,175 quarts canned.....	35,362.20
				29,437 jars preserves.....	
				2,125 barrels dried.....	
Sugar beet.....	98	1,822	1,398	22,374 tons.....	225,814.00
				195 gallons sirup.....	
				331,072 chicks.....	
Poultry.....	2,171	37,723	16,128	133,565 dozen eggs.....	402,237
Baby beef.....	162	2,469	985	589,123 pounds.....	106,231
Pig club.....	2,331	31,476	12,974	4,423,881 pounds.....	947,570
Bread club.....	1,100	18,583	8,706	193,207 loaves.....	43,077
Garment making	2,356	32,239	18,951	98,822 garments.....	116,218
Handicraft.....	84	2,131	488	3,012 pieces.....	3,022
Dairy calf.....	301	4,332	2,552	2,474 calves.....	167,737
Home economics	16	3,987	3,144	.....	7,071
Sheep club.....	257	3,613	2,341	8,005 lambs.....	131,173
				2,006 pounds wool.....	
Bean.....	150	1,861	1,137	177,890 bushels.....	60,067
Rabbit.....	341	3,196	1,249	26,322 rabbits.....	21,467
Miscellaneous....	207	13,754	2,903	.....	108,143
Total.....	21,845	527,723	251,032	.....	6,019,092

It will be seen that during the year 1918, 21,845 club groups enrolled more than one-half million boys and girls. Those reporting produced and conserved food to the estimated value of \$6,019,092.06 as a contribution toward feeding the world. It is probable that the other members who did not make reports produced nearly as much, but for reasons common to a farming population were unwilling to keep records and make definite reports.

## PERMANENT VALUES OF BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK.

## DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY.

One of the most important objects or aims of club work is to help boys and girls to make profits from their various projects, with a view to gaining ownership of farm crops and products, thus developing the spirit of proprietorship and thrift.

There are constantly coming to the attention of leaders instances of how the club work undertaken by boys and girls has been developed into substantial business enterprises. This is especially true

relative to the canning, live stock, and gardening work. One club member reports that in six years' time he has become the owner of a \$5,000 trucking business. Two club members of 12 years ago in Iowa are now the owners of a herd of purebred Polled Herefords, famous throughout the Midwest. A club member, age 17, as an outgrowth of successful club work, is in the hog-raising business. This particular boy had to give up school because of eye trouble. However, through the opportunity afforded by club work he has been able to get a practical education at home. His success in hog raising has also been a demonstration in itself to his father, who had quit raising hogs because they did not pay.

Surveys have been made in four States with four groups of club members. The results which are given below are good illustrations of this phase of club work. The young people were asked to report bonds, war savings stamps, savings accounts, and property which they were able to purchase and own as the direct result of their club work. The survey in New York State was in Chemung County. The three groups from Michigan, Minnesota, and Indiana were in attendance at the State agricultural college short courses, and represented all parts of the States.

*Results of ownership surveys.*

Number of club members.	New York.	Michigan.	Minnesota.	Indiana.	Total.
Total.....	240	195	210	400	1,045
Owning Liberty bonds.....	34	48	12	18	112
Owning war savings stamps.....	171	134	129	109	543
Savings-bank accounts.....	95	103	60	33	291
Owning 1 acre of land or lots.....	(1)	22	10	(1)	32
Owning purebred pigs.....	8	15	25	85	133
Owning sheep or cows.....	6	19	30	46	101
Owning poultry or poultry equipment.....	50	25	(1)	62	137
Owning kitchen equipment.....	46	18	24	(1)	88
Intending to go to college.....	(1)	68	(1)	117	185

<sup>1</sup> Question not asked.

In the above figures we read, not only the philosophy of anchoring the child to the home, but the philosophy of an education that spells self-help in the best and most important educational institution on earth—the home.

**IMPROVEMENT OF GENERAL FARM AND HOME CONDITIONS.**

Club work as carried on by boys and girls is effective in demonstrating to the farmers of the country better methods of agriculture and home making. Instances of such work have already been given relative to the live-stock industry where through the boys' and girls' records the parents have been convinced of the value of purebred live stock as a means of increasing the profits of his farm.

Farm bureaus are looking to club work for help in getting their program of work before the people. In one county of California the farm bureau found it difficult to interest the farmers in raising pigs as a war measure. An appeal was made to the club leader. Seven clubs were organized with a total membership of 42. Each boy raised two pigs. Thus there were conducted 42 demonstrations of better feeding, care and management, with complete records to back up the success of the work on 42 farms of this county. In another county the farmers were anxious to secure good selected grain sorghum seed. The farm bureau recommended that this be done through the agricultural clubs. Three clubs were organized. One boy alone



FIG. 14.—The club contest in stock judging at county fairs benefit the adults as well as the boys.

will supply the county farm bureau with 3 tons of selected seed from his 1919 club enterprise.

Through the work of the boys and girls in the home-canning clubs, bread clubs, garment-making clubs, and cooking clubs, much has been done to lighten the labor of the mother. Reports from the States show the increased help the mothers receive since their boys and girls have become club members. Household tasks of various types, baking, serving, mending, canning, cleaning, filling of lamps, replenishing the fuel boxes, and other tasks of like nature are now performed by members of the 4-H clubs with interest, pride, and efficiency. Thus the boys and girls become an essential part of



the home life and are better able to help their mothers and fathers plan the work of the home.

Many new ideas and practices for the improvement of home life are brought about through the work of the boys and girls. The one-period cold-pack canning with its lessened labor has become the standard home method of canning throughout practically all the Northern and Western States largely because of demonstrations in the homes of club members. The making of wheat-substitute breads was a problem to many mothers until their daughters and sometimes their sons joined the bread clubs. Short cuts in sewing to save time and labor are now being advocated in the more advanced garment-making clubs.

So effective has club work proven in demonstrating better methods of agriculture and home making that it is believed any community which fails to see the advantages accruing from the promotion of this type of extension work fails also in laying as substantial a foundation as is possible for successful farming and home making.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONDITIONS.

**Development of community leadership.**—From the outset, the development of leadership, especially among rural people, has been one of the main aims of boys' and girls' club work. Club work through its volunteer enrollment develops initiative which is the beginning of leadership. The enrollment of over a half million boys and girls during 1918 means that this number chose of their own volition to produce something, to demonstrate something, and to work with the others of the club group. Many former club boys and girls are now serving as local leaders. In some States, the high school club boys act as local leaders and advisers for the boys of elementary school age. A few are now holding paid club leadership positions. Boys and girls who have developed qualities of leadership often head movements for the improvement of general social and economic conditions which would have failed had it not been for their support and interest.

Moreover, club work not only develops leadership in a community among the boys and girls themselves but also among the adults. The work in a community is dependent largely upon the local leaders chosen to conduct it. During 1918 there were 13,988 such volunteer leaders who gave of their time and energy to the promotion of the interests of the community by means of club work. Through this training in leadership a broad outlook on the general community problems is attained, enabling those in whom the desire for service has been enkindled to enlarge their field and become a potential force in community development and betterment.

**Development of community cooperation.**—One of the outstanding features of rural life has been the lack of community cooperation. This has been due in a large measure to the fact that farm homes are often far apart. Through club work, and especially the club group organization, the community as a whole has often been brought together on a common democratic basis. Club fairs, club festivals, and achievement days are held throughout the year, when the parents have an opportunity to see what has been accomplished by their own boys and girls. The parents at these functions, through the recreational activities introduced, are given an opportunity to join with their own boys and girls in play and contests. By means of these festivals and picnics it is hoped that a new attitude may be developed toward the importance of farm and home recreations, as it touches the life of the rural boys and girls. At such gatherings those of a community also become better acquainted, and find a common bond mutually helpful to all. These gatherings serve a purpose, too, in bringing together those unfamiliar with the work.

In addition, club boys and girls are given an opportunity to cooperate in community enterprises by being assigned a definite part in the farm bureau program of work. For example, in the development of purebred stock, calf and dairy clubs are formed. Often the purebred live stock introduced by the club members becomes the foundation for purebred herds, as noted elsewhere. In this way the boys and girls participate in the community program of work and learn the meaning of true cooperation.

**Development of community spirit and citizenship.**—Through club work boys and girls come to look upon the community and its problems from a new angle. One club girl, when asked what she liked best to do in club work, answered that she preferred to demonstrate, because it gave her an opportunity to help pay back to the community in service what had been given her through club work. A State corn club champion of Minnesota refused an offer of \$10 a bushel for his seed corn by a commercial concern in order that he might improve the strain of seed corn in his own county. So in earnest was he that he offered his seed corn in 75-cent lots—enough to plant an acre—to the farmers of his county. By doing this he lost \$5 a bushel but gained the satisfaction of having performed a service to his own home county.

Club work also encourages a spirit of citizenship. The estimated value of products reported increased from \$922,766.73 during 1916 to \$6,019,092.06 during 1918. This increase was due in a large measure to the appeals sent out by the Government for greater food production and food conservation. Many of the club members and some clubs as a whole have bought Liberty bonds and War Savings

stamps with the money that they have earned in their club work. Some clubs as organizations are also supporting Belgian and French orphans. A Massachusetts club member, too young to be included in the draft, changed his plans of entering college in order that he might form clubs in food production and food conservation as his part to help win the war.

Club work thus socializes community life through the boys and girls and gives young people a real motive in all their work. They are trained through it for community leadership and cooperative work of every kind and are taught that it is infinitely better to be a proprietor of farm land, farm animals, and farm machinery than to be a mere wage earner.





